Teesta hydro electric project

1549. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the price escalation in the Teesta hydro electric and irrigation project in northern part of West Bengal;

(b) whether the issue came up at any Government meeting in recent past; and

(c) if so, what was the outcome and whether the Centre has released its share of the proejct?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) Government of India has, on October 30, 2003, approved setting up of the Teesta Low Dam Stage-III Hydro Electric Power (132 MW) in West Bengal in the Central Sector by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) at an estimated completion cost of Rs. 768.92 crores (December, 2002 price level). The project does not have any irrigation component. An amount of Rs. 106.73 crores has been released by Government of India till date as equity. As the project, which is scheduled for commissioning in March 2007, is under various stages of construction and an expenditure of only Rs. 59.46 crores has been incurred up to June 2004, it is too early to determine whether there is any price escalation.

Integrated national energy policy

1550. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to formulate an integraed national energy policy including feedstock for use in power and energy fertilizer;

(b) whether coal gasification technology is being considered as a major option for fertilizer and power sector,

(c) if so, the detailed planning for the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?